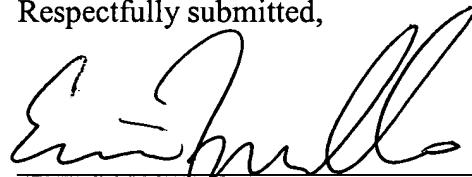


Remarks

Claims 1-10, attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report, are pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims to eliminate multiple dependencies and thereby reduce the filing fee. Applicants have also amended claims to delete reference characters. The present invention is not limited to any particular embodiment shown in the drawings and/or described in the specification. Furthermore, Applicants have amended the claims to bring them more in line with standard U.S. format. Applicants also submit herewith on a separate sheet an abstract of the disclosure.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Franklin, Reg. No. 37,134  
Attorney for Applicants  
Venable LLP  
575 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Telephone: 202-344-4936

Date: 5/19/05